

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/628,332

Applicant(s)

NAKAO, HAYATO

Examiner

Art Unit

Hau H. Nguyen

2676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/17/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-6 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art taken singly or in combination does not teach or suggest, an image data generating apparatus, among other things, comprising:

third means for generating MIP maps with different resolutions in response to each of the blocks, a maximum resolution among the different resolutions being equal to a resolution of the input two-dimensional image, *a number of the generated MIP maps being equal to or less than a predetermined maximum number;*

a memory having storage portions assigned to the predetermined maximum number of different-resolution MIP maps respectively for each of the blocks, data segments representative of the MIP maps generated by the third means being *stored in assigned ones among the storage portions respectively for each of the blocks;* and

sixth means for reading, from the memory, a data segment representative of the desired MIP map in response to the block ID number, the intra-Mip-map-block position, and the resolution calculated by the fifth means while *preventing data read-out from the storage portions except the assigned ones.*

The closest prior art, Iourcha et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,268) teaches a method of Mip Map texture mapping, including dividing an image into two-dimensional blocks (first means), assigning different block ID to respective block (second means), generating MIP maps with different resolutions (third means), a memory for storing data representative of the generated

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MIP maps, receiving polygon data representing on-screen position, depth value, color values and correspondence between the polygon and positions of pixels of a two-dimensional image to be applied to the polygon (fourth means), calculating the block ID number corresponding to a desired MIP map applied to the polygon, an intra-MIP-map block position of the desired MIP map, and a resolution of the desired MIP map (a fifth means), and retrieving these data from the memory (sixth means), calculating a luminance of each pixel in a final image (seventh means) and outputting the results of the calculated pixel to the frame buffer (eight means).

However, reference Iourcha et al. does not teach *preventing data read-out from the storage portions except the assigned ones*.

Conclusion

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hau H. Nguyen whose telephone number is: 571-272-7787. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI from 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe can be reached on (571) 272-7691.


The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-2 17-9197 (toll-free).

H. Nguyen

02/16/2006



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